

which appeared in the London papers to have described O'Connell as an incendiary and a traitor. Disraeli then and ever afterwards maintained that the summary misrepresented him, and that he had only quoted from tin; Whigs the language in which they had but recently donounced their present ally; and his explanation is in full accord with the speech as reported in all the local papers.¹ The unlucky version, however, came before the eyes of O'Connell and much incensed him; and he seized the opportunity of a meeting in Dublin a few days later to take a savage revenge on his supposed assailant.

I must confess, that some of the attacks made on me, particularly one, by a Mr. Disraeli, at Taunton, surprised me. Anything so richly deserving the appellation of superlative blackguardism, or at all equal to that in impudence and assurance, I never before met with. The annals of ruffianism do not furnish anything like it. He is an author, I believe, of a couple of novels, and that was all I knew about him until 1843, when he² wrote to me, being about to go and for High Wycombe, requesting a letter of recommendation, from me to the electors. He took the letter with him to the place, got it printed and placarded all over the place. The next I heard of him was his being a candidate for Marylebone; in this he was also unsuccessful. He got tired of being a Radical any longer after these two defeats, and was determined to try his chance as a Tory. He stands the other day at Taunton, and by way of recommending himself to the electors he calls me an incendiary and a traitor. Now, my answer to this piece of gratuitous importunence, is, that, he is an egregious liar. He is a liar both in fact and words. What! shall such a vile creature be tolerated in England? Shall the man be received by any constituency who after coining forward on two opposite

¹ Tim H. report that in 1847 *Wentworth's Chronicle* for April 30, 1847, reprinted in Knolly's *Nelson's Life of Lord Wellington*. It is the word 'incendiary' that is not omitted at all, and the only mention of 'traitor' is in a paragraph in which the Whigs are described as 'that weak and unprincipled party in the state who could only obtain power by leaguering themselves with one whom they had denounced as a traitor.'

² This was inaccurate. The application, as has been seen, was made through Mulwren.